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GWRRA GEORGIA

January 2007

Happy New Year

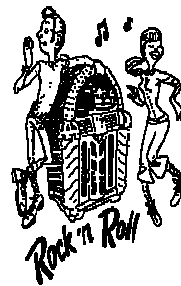


New Year Resolutions

Since being appointed as the Georgia District Directors in July, things have been going at a whirlwind pace. With barely enough time to get out and visit as many Chapters as we could, we try to put the administrative responsibilities of the position on the back burner you might say. As all of us are aware, no job is complete until the paperwork is done. Despite the fact that we haven't had a chance to visit all the Chapters, we are getting out as much as time allows and we are enjoying every minute of it. This is really fun stuff. With the start of a new year, we have also made our New Year's resolutions. Your District Staff has been giving a lot of thought about ideas to create fun, exciting and fulfilling things to provide to the most important people in GWRRA, you, the members. In the upcoming year we have come up with a collective resolution...GIVE BACK TO THE MEMBERS. And just how do we plan to do that? We are planning an aggressive training program to provide valuable information about GWRRA. We are always developing new ways to reward and recognize members for the hard work and dedication you give to your Chapters. We are planning lots of fun games and events for Wing Fling that we are sure you will enjoy. We are going to have a car race with a Georgia twist to it, a model car contest and a web page contest. We will also have the

trolley rides on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Our commitment is to provide you with the absolute best in your GWRRA membership. After all, you deserve it. You are what makes GWRRA. We thank you all for your support and we look forward to serving you.

It's not too early to think about Wing Fling



What's buzzin', cuzzin'? I'll tell you what's buzzin' – it's already 2007, which means less than 6 months left before the "Fabulous 50's & 60's Georgia Wing Fling. The word from the bird is that you'll really dig all the cool activities we have planned for you. From hula hoop contests and yo-yo exhibitions to Thursday Night at the Hop to our Soda Shop Special, we have all kinds of hip things to do. So get out your very best 50's and 60's threads and plan to make the scene in Rome, Georgia on June 14-16th. Meanwhile, get on the horn and call your friends – tell them to make sure they get in their pre-registration for the rally so they can get in on all the fun!

Vicki Watkins - Event Coordinator

GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

2007 CHAPTER

COUPLES OF THE YEAR

GA-E Jimmy & Brenda Davis

GA-E-2 Clarence & Pat Taylor

GA-H Tonny & Sue Bracewell

GA Traveler's Plaque

On 6 January, Chapter C will offer the Georgia District Travelers Plaque for the taking at Kings Buffet in Brunswick. They will eat at 5:00 PM and meet at 6:00 PM. For more information, please contact Ray and Kathy Potter at (912) 876-5527.

A new recognition program. Georgia District Ambassadors

Your District Staff has developed a program to recognize the 2006 Georgia District Couple Of the Year and the Chapter Couples Of the Year that went through the District COY selection process. The concept of the program is to appoint those Couples as Ambassadors for the Georgia District. They will be identified by a name tag with the title "Georgia District Ambassadors" for the year following their tenure as District Couple Of the Year and Chapter Couple Of the Year. You will see them assisting the Georgia District Staff at various District events such as Chilly Willy, Wing Fling and Wind Down by handing out information on Motorist Awareness, Recruitment and Retention, Public Relations and other GWRRA programs. When visiting Chapters, they will promote National, Regional and District events as well as the Couple Of the Year program. This program will add to the support we can offer to the members as a means to pass along important information. Our 2007 District Ambassadors are Sid and Donna Cohen GA-S, Frank and Margie Ricigliano GA-Q and Pat and Clarence Taylor GA-E-2. Please welcome these Ambassadors at your Chapter gatherings and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 13— Chilly Willy, Garden Patch Restaurant, Barnesville. New CDs and ACDs come at 9:30, all others come around 11:00. There will be a short officer's meeting after lunch. CDs, ACDs, Treasurers, and Ride Educators to attend. Contact Bill and Betty Livingston (229) 889-1705.

Jan. 20-21—Horizons class. Comfort Inn at exit 136 in Perry. \$10 per person. Offered to any officer or any member that desires to hold an officer position. Contact Dave Aikens (478) 953-4886.

Feb. 10—Horizons class. Comfort Inn At exit 136 in Perry. \$10.00 per person.

Feb. 17- Sweetheart Poker Run, Fort Yargo State Park, Winder, GA. For more information contact Ken and Traci Thrasher, (706) 310-1041

Mar. 15-17—Florida District Wing Gathering, Kissimmee, Fl. For more information check out the Georgia web page <http://www.gwr-ra-ga.com>

Mar. 23-24— Irish Get-A-Way, Dublin, for more information, contact Gene & Pat Whiddon at (478)731-4223.

Christian Sympathy is extended to....

Merv & Jan Goulette (GA-E-2) on the loss of Merv's father.

Keith and Sharon Burkingstock (GA-P) on the loss of Sharon's mother.

Jeff & Maud Verner (GA-H) on the loss of Maud's brother and Jeff's mother.

Illnesses



Jerry Watson, GA-Q

Gene Whiddon, GA- A2

Vicki Watkins, GA District Staff

Ron Larsen, GA District Staff

If you know of any member that is ill, had surgery, or lost a loved one, please contact Bill and Betty Livingston.

From your District Leadership Trainers

Dave and Sharon Aikens

Chapter Newsletter Contest

Yes, we will be conducting a Chapter Newsletter Contest again this year at our District Rally in Rome, GA. I will be collecting your newsletters for the period January thru April, 2007. The two categories that will be judged are "Color" and "Black & White".

The only newsletters that will be accepted are the ones received through the US Postal Service. The intent is to judge the same documents that your members receive that don't have computer access. The reason for this is based on the reason for even publishing your newsletter – to inform and keep your members up-to-date on Chapter, District and Region GWRRA activities and happenings.

For those of you who weren't members 6-8 years ago, the newsletter contest was brought into being to try to upgrade the quality of newsletters that were being sent to the participants of each chapter. Prior to this the quality of the newsletters was only poor to fair in most instances. Editors were not using their editorial license to spell check and correct poor grammar. In general the quality left a lot to be desired. Since the newsletter contest began the quality and appearance of chapter newsletters has skyrocketed. Most chapters are now putting out an absolutely top quality product, and those doing such a superior job need to have an opportunity to be recognized. That's where we are now, recognizing those chapters (Chapter Newsletter Editors) for doing such a great job.

Down the road at some point in time we would like to establish some guidelines by which we can judge your newsletters that are put on your web pages and sent out via email. That will be very time consuming which, in turn, may prohibit such an endeavor. We will be taking a look at it just the same. For now we will just have to keep on keeping on and send me your newsletters (not one created special for the occasion) as if I were one of your chapter members that doesn't have internet or email access. Mail them to:

Dave Aikens
GA District Trainer
228 Sentry Oaks Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31093

From Your Georgia Assistant District Directors and Motorist Awareness Coordinators, Bob and Karla Greer

Motorist Awareness (MA)

First, we want to thank all the GWRRA members, Chapter Directors, and especially the Motorist Awareness Coordinators throughout Georgia for making 2006 a very successful year of making non-motorcyclists aware of motorcycles by promoting GWRRA's Ride Aware Campaign while making the roads safer for everyone.

If this idea of "making the roads safer for everyone" interests you, please talk to your Chapter Director about being your Chapter MA Coordinator. If it is agreeable, simply have your Chapter Director contact me to make it official. We will then ensure that you receive all the information and material required for this position. To find out more about this exciting concept you can take a look at the Motorist Awareness Page on the Georgia District Web Page Site.

We would encourage every GWRRA member to make Motorist Awareness a part of your regular everyday life. Some have suggested to start with teaching small children to look for and play a counting game with their parents as they drive down the road. "Who can find the most motorcycles today?" (Cont. on Page 4)

Continued from Page 3

(Parents are listening.) It could even be as simple as telling someone, "A motorcycle is so much smaller than a car that sometimes the motorcycle just doesn't register in the driver's mind as a threat and are therefore not seen." Bring it up in conversation. We all know we love to talk about riding. Many times when an automobile hits a motorcycle, the first thing the motorist says is, "I didn't even see the motorcycle". This sounds so simple yet statistics prove that the more aware the average motorist is of motorcycles, the more likely they are to be on the look out for them as they drive their vehicles on a daily basis.

Karla and I will be kicking off 2007 with an MA workshop to help all Chapter MA Coordinators learn more about this program and more especially prepare to perform their jobs with a "hands on" workshop as Chapter MA Coordinators. Currently twelve Chapters in Georgia have a Motorist Awareness Coordinator. Our goal is to have an MA Coordinator in all thirty-three Chapters in Georgia so that non-motorcyclists all over the state will have an opportunity to hear about this program and make the roads a safer place for everyone. Please let us know if you are interested in this workshop and we will send you more details. It will be conducted on Saturday, February 3, 2007 from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM at our home in Jonesboro, GA.

Bob & Karla Greer, Georgia Motorist Awareness Coordinators

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From Your Senior District Ride Educators Chuck and Anne Reed

What Is the "M" On Your Georgia Drivers License??
(You do have it, don't you??)

The Georgia District Rider Education Staff hope that everyone had a Happy Holiday Season, and that Santa brought what you wanted. (Maybe something that would NOT fit under the Christmas tree, even if it ONLY had 2 wheels . . . !)

As you all know, if you ride a motorcycle (of any size), you must have the Motorcycle Endorsement (Class "M") on your Georgia Drivers License. If you ride a 2-wheeler, one way you can get your "M" endorsement, is by taking and passing the course offered by the Georgia State MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) Office. But, what if you ride a Trike? Well, if you converted your 2-wheeler to a 3-wheeler, and you already had the "M" endorsement, it would remain on your license. So, no problem there. However, there are some folks that have never ridden a motorcycle, and are now riding, or thinking about riding, a Trike. Since there is currently no certified Trike MSF course being given in Georgia, how do you get your endorsement to ride legally?

The answer is rather simple. Get on your trusty "steed" and ride to your local Georgia State Patrol Licensing Facility. There you will take a written test and then a riding "skill" test, also given there. Examiners are aware of how to test 3-wheelers and do so on a routine basis. When you successfully pass both the written and riding tests, bingo, you now have your "M" endorsement on your drivers license. (Probably wouldn't hurt to do a bit of studying first)

When all is said and done, to legally ride a 2- or 3-wheeler in Georgia, you must have the Motorcycle Endorsement on your drivers license. And, most Insurance Companies that insure motorcycles, also require you have the endorsement. If you do not currently have the "M" on your license, it is strongly suggested that you take whatever steps necessary to get it.

Ride safe, ride legal and most of all, have FUN!! And, as always, always be watchful for the unwatchful.

RSHF,

Chuck and Anne Reed, Georgia Senior District Educators